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Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Tuesday - 22 June 1954

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2. I ran into Robert Kennedy, Minority Counsel for the Senate Investigations Subcommittee, and he again expressed his concern as to how CIA was to meet the Congressional suspicions which have been expressed. He inquired as to whether a Joint Committee similar to the Joint Atomic Energy Committee would not be the answer, and I explained to him the difference between our situation and that of the AEC (i.e. the fact that they had 20 pieces of legislation to our 1; the vast diversity of AEC problems, including preemptive rights, etc), and I also explained that the Armed Services Committee had jurisdiction which could be exercised. Mr. Kennedy pointed out the obvious fact that they had not

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exercised that jurisdiction in any great detail. He suggested that we have lunch sometime, and his parting comment was that CIA would be in trouble if we didn't win the war in Guatemala. A few minutes later I ran into Don Surine, of Senator McCarthy's staff, who remarked that we seem to be doing very well with the war in Guatemala.

3. Mr. Richard Arens, Counsel to the Senate Immigration Subcommittee, has asked whether we could supply three witnesses who could testify on communism in Mexico and in particular the plans in Mexico to infiltrate Communists into the United States [redacted]

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Mr. Arens also asked whether the DCI or someone could testify on the Jenner/McCarran resolution to break diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. I said that the latter was a policy question and that CIA did not get involved in policy.

4. Telephone calls from [redacted]

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[redacted] and from the State Department to Consul General Lightner in Munich, reveal that the Kersten Committee, having promised not to release any of its hearings while in a country abroad and now having left England, desire to release immediately the testimony which they took in England. As the Committee is now in Germany, the State Department is very much opposed to the release of any such material until the Committee returns to the United States, and has so informed Lightner. The report [redacted] the Kersten Committee plans to hold open hearings 25X1 in Munich in defiance of their agreement with the German government is evidently untrue and a garbled version of the London hearings release. Mr. Ben Brown, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, who talked with Mr. Lightner on the trans-Atlantic phone today, still envisages considerable trouble.

5. Mr. Green, of the legal staff of the Atomic Energy Commission, informs me that they have recommended to the Commission that they go along with the proposed amendment to the Atomic Energy Act which we have agreed upon, and that the Commission will presumably act on the necessary staff paper at its meeting on 23 June. If the Commission approves of the amendment, Mr. Green suggests that we make arrangements with the Joint Committee to appear in support of it, and inform the Joint Committee that it has the backing of the Commission. In response to my queries, Mr. Green stated that the Commission representatives would also be willing to inform the Joint Committee staff that the AEC supports the amendment, but that the AEC cannot take the burden of driving the amendment through the Committee.

6. On 16 June Congressman Graham introduced H.R. 9580, to revise and extend the espionage and sabotage laws. Examination of this bill indicates that it might be preferable if it could be expanded to include definitions which would cover CIA installations and materiel. With this in mind, I have discussed the matter with Mr. Foley, of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, who states that this bill was being reported out immediately as a part of the Administration anti-subversive package and that the Department would be very reluctant on amendments suggested at this time. Mr. Foley stated, however, that they were planning to review the espionage laws and in particular Sections 793 and 794 of the Criminal Code over the Summer, and would be glad to work out any language which CIA might require for submission next January. The office of General Counsel will undertake a study of the act to see how it could be amended to cover our problems.

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